

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 09809 091644Z

22

ACTION IO-13

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4115

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AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN

SUBJ: ATTEMPT TO SHOW PROPAGANDA FILM AT U.N.

1. IN CALL TO DCM LATE WEDNESDAY, CHILEAN AMB SILVA DREW MISSION'S ATTENTION TO BRIEF ITEM IN YESTERDAY'S TRIBUNE DE GENEVE, ANNOUNCING A SCREENING AT THE PALAIS DES NATIONS OF "THE SPIRAL-- A FILM ON CHILE."

2. THE NEWS STORY REPORTED THAT THE FILM "DEVOTES ITSELF TO EXPLAINING HOW AMERICAN IMPERIALISM AND THE CHILEAN GRAND BOURGEOISIE MANEUVERED TOGETHER..." TO CARRY OUT THE COUNTER-REVOLUTION. THE STORY ON THE FILM, APPARENTLY PRODUCED IN FRANCE, CONCLUDED "NOT TO BE MISS..."

3. SILVA TOLD US HE HAD PROTESTED TO DIRECTOR-GENERAL WINSPEARE AGAINST THE PROJECTED SCREENING.

4. ON CHECKING WITH GERARD GREGOIRE, DEPUTY CHIEF OF INFORMATION AT THE PALAIS, THE PAO LEARNED THE FOLLOWING: THE SCREENING HAD BEEN SCHEDULED BY A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION, THE CINE CLUB OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS. ONE OF THE ANNOUNCED PURPOSES OF THE CLUB IS TO SHOW FILMS THAT ARE NOT OTHERWISE AVAILABLE IN GENEVA. THE U.N. ADMINISTRATION HAS AUTHORIZED THE CLUB TO USE ITS FACILITIES, WITH THE PROVISION THAT FILMS WITH A POLITICAL CONTENT MUST GET CLEARANCE FROM THE FRONT OFFICE, AS MUST ANY

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 09809 091644Z

PUBLICITY ABOUT THE CLUB'S PROGRAMS.

5. AFTER HAVING BEEN QUESTIONED BY WINSPEARE, GREGOIRE SPOKE TO THE CLUB'S PRESIDENT, C.A. VOLKOV. HIS NAME SHOULD BE FAMILIAR TO DEPT AND USUN AS A SOMEWHAT MYSTERIOUS RUSSIAN NATIONAL WHO SAYS HE IS AN EMIGRE, WHO HOLDS A VALID SOVIET PASSPORT AND WHO WAS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL LEADERS IN LAST WINTER'S STRIKE AT THE PALAIS. VOLKOV DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGED OF THE PROJECTED SCREENING, EXPLAINING (QUITE ACCURATELY) THAT HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM NEW YORK WHERE HE HAD BEEN NEGOTIATING FOR HIS FELLOW UN EMPLOYEES.

6. GREGOIRE WAS REFERRED TO THE CLUB'S PROGRAM CHAIRMAN, A SPANISH NATIONAL EMPLOYED AT THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION. THE LATTER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE KNEW THE CONDITIONS ON WHICH HIS CLUB COULD USE UN FACILITIES, APOLOGIZED IF THEY HAD BEEN VIOLATED, BUT SAID HE ASSUMED THAT VOLKOV HAD GOTTEN THE NECESSARY CLEARANCES.

7. COMMENT: GREGOIRE SAID THIS IS THE SECOND TIME HE HAS HAD DIFFICULTIES WITH THE SPANIARD, THE FIRST TIME BEING AN ATTEMPT TO SHOW A VIGOROUSLY ANTI-FRANCO FILM. EARLIER THIS YEAR THE CLUB TURNED DOWN AN OFFER FROM USIO TO SHOW THE ALISTAIR COOK FILMS, "AMERICA," ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE CLUB COULD NOT SHOW ONE-SIDED MATERIAL.

8. JUST AS THE AMB WAS CALLING WINSPEARE TO PROTEST, BOTH SILVA AND GREGOIRE CALLED TO SAY THE SHOWING HAD BEEN CANCELLED FOR "TECHNICAL REASONS." WINSPEARE CONFIRMED THIS TO AMBASSADOR, ADDING THAT APPARENTLY THE PRIME MOVER HAD BEEN "A PERSON WHO HAD JUST BEEN CONFERRING WITH THE RECENTLY RE-ELECTED SECY-GENERAL" IN NEW YORK.

9. BY THAT TIME IT WAS A FEW MINUTES BEFORE THE ANNOUNCED SHOW TIME OF 6:00 P.M. GREGOIRE ANNOUNCED TO THE GATHERING AUDIENCE THAT IT WOULD NOT GO ON BECAUSE OF TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES AND WAS GREETED WITH GENERAL EXPRESSIONS OF DISBELIEF, ABUSE AND THE STANDARD EPITHETS ONE WOULD EXPECT IN SUCH A SITUATION. SHORTLY THEREAFTER THERE WAS A MODERATELY-SIZED DEMONSTRATION AT THE PALAIS GATES TO PROTEST THE CANCELLATION, COMPLETE WITH PLACARDS DENOUNCING FASCISM, IMPERIALISM AND THE CIA.

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 09809 091644Z

10. NOT TO MISS ANY BETS, THE ORGANIZERS OF THE SCREENING ALSO CALLED THEIR CONTACT ON THE TRIBUNE FOR GREGOIRE GOT A CALL FROM THE REPORTER INQUIRING WHETHER IT WAS TRUE THAT HE HAD SUPPRESSED THE SHOWING OF THE FILM. GREGOIRE CONFIRMED THAT TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES HAD MADE THE SHOWING IMPOSSIBLE. WE ALSO INTEND TO RAISE INFORMALLY THE QUESTION WITH THE TRIBUNE WHETHER AN ITEM WHICH ENDS WITH "NOT TO BE MISSED..." IS A BONA FIDE NEWS STORY OR A DISGUISED AD.

11. THE DEC 9 TRIBUNE REPORTED BRIEFLY ON THE CANCELLATION
AND ANNOUNCED THAT THE FILM WOULD BE SHOWN IN A PRIVATE HALL
IN LAUSANNE ON DEC 10. CATTO

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